

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for meeting of July 21, 2009, 3:00 PM,
Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Don Jones, Burr Taylor, Anne Perry, Ann Nemrow. Absent: Tony Barrett
Carol Tukey, Town Planner.

Meeting called to order at 3:04 pm by M. Nahf. Minutes of July 7, 2009 approved. Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by A. Nemrow. Unanimously approved.

Old Business:

M. Nahf reported that at the recent non-resident taxpayer meeting many people showed an interest in being kept up-to-date on future open space issues. Email addresses have been obtained for many. C. Tukey thought it would be good to have a proposal for those individuals and others in Town who may wish to sell/give land to the Town. How best to do it is the question. HHLT handout has worked well and a future joint effort may be a way to accomplish. Lands Cons. Subcommittee will work on this.

Audubon Significant Wildlife Habitat slide program still not finalized for Town yet. M. Nahf waiting for more specific info from them. A. Nemrow asked if it was specifically for songbirds or shorebirds. Hopefully will be arranged in the fall with Town and HHLT.

Hildreth Road Town Lot Recommendation. Suggestions made by several members of Concom and M. Nahf noted these and will make edits and resend the letter to members before the next meeting. Wetland delineation and clearcut cleanup were issues of concern.

Subcommittees:

Conservation Education: M. Nahf suggested bringing the resolution for lawn care to the selectmen now for comment and review and then presenting officially to the public at a selectmen's meeting in September. A. Nemrow has written several articles on other best practices for landowners that can be handed out at the Sept. meeting.

Lands Conservation: Cliff Trail lot. D. Strachan discussed the work the subcommittee has done on the easement on the Town Land that includes the Cliff Trail. Easement would be on the part of the lot that is primarily to the east of the old town road. Also need to include trails that are outside of that portion of the lot. Will explore the costs associated with an easement. May be able to get a grant for this. Will present to Concom at the next meeting. C. Tukey suggested asking for a workshop meeting with the selectmen to discuss what we are working regarding the easement before we go much further.

Cedar Beach. Better parking an issue. HHLT had a plan for parking on Robin Hood Rd. that may be of some use. Need to check ordinance re this issue. Clarification of use of private road to that gives access to the easterly beach and Cedar Island. Present easement granted to the Town for that beach is for Lot 64 and may not include access via the road. C. Tukey stated the Town lawyer may need to review document. Portable toilet and trash pickup also may be an issue. Also, at the present time the Abramsons allow access via a path to the westerly sandy beach. Discussing an easement with them is a key to future access to the westerly beach. TPL funds may be available for an easement.

Otter Brook Corridor. Need to identify land owners in the OB corridor for future contact regarding easements. Also may want to distribute educational materials to the abutters on best practices to use for stewardship of the wetland areas. Discussed how to monitor and what the setback should be, 250/300 feet or more. Really dependent upon species present in the area. To be discussed further by Concom.

New Business:

Upland Land Parcel: This lot is being offered to the Town for purchase at fair market value. D. Strachan suggested looking at this 19 acre parcel as a part of the entire Long Reach focus area. There is Town land and HHLT land presently in this focus area. Easements on two adjacent lots would give connectivity to the large Town Lot that includes Cliff Trail. Others members of the Concom did not agree that the lot had to be looked at in this manner. More discussion is needed before a recommendation can be made to the selectmen. An on-site inspection of the property is tentatively set for Aug. 17 at 10am, pending confirmation with the Town Administrator. M Nahf will confirm.

Future activities:

HHLT trail walk set for Aug. 22 at 10:30am at Skofield Farm trailhead.

Giants Stairs talk will be held at that site on Sep. 7 at 10am.

Community Forest Workshop sponsored in part by the MEACC will be held in Bath on Oct. 23

No August 4 conservation commission meeting. Next meeting set for August. 18 at 3pm.

Adjourned at 5:07pm

D. Jones, sec'y.